CLAIMS

What is claimed is

1.   A method in a processor-based system for setting accessibility performance characteristics comprising the steps of:

5   providing a plurality of accessibility profiles, each accessibility profile containing one or more definitions of system accessibility performance characteristics; and

setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to definitions contained within a selected accessibility profile.

10   2.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising

assigning an accessibility profile to a system function or application program;

. setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to definitions contained within a said assigned accessibility profile when a

15   system function is operated or application program is executed. .

3.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of launching at least one companion application program or operating at least one companion system function as defined by said accessibility profile.

4.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a plurality

20   of accessibility profiles comprises providing a name for each accessibility profile.

5.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a plurality of accessibility profiles comprises providing groups of accessibility profiles

such that each group of accessibility profiles inherits the system accessibility

performance characteristic definitions of its constituent accessibility profiles.

6.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprises the step of transferring

or copying one or more accessibility profiles from one system to another

5   system.

7.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing accessibility

profiles comprises providing an association between accessibility profiles and

user names or user identifiers.

8.   A computer-readable media containing computer-executable program code for

10   setting accessibility performance characteristics of a computer-based system,

said program code causing the computer-based system to perform the steps of:

providing a plurality of accessibility profiles, each accessibility profile

containing one or more definitions of system accessibility performance

characteristics; and

15   setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to

definitions contained within a selected accessibility profile.

9.   The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 further comprising

program code for:

assigning an accessibility profile to a system function or application

20   program;

-23-

setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to definitions contained within a said assigned accessibility profile when a system function is operated or application program is executed.

10. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 further comprising program code for performing the step of launching at least one companion application program or companion system function as defined by said accessibility profile.

11. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said program code for providing a plurality of accessibility profiles comprises program code for providing a name for each accessibility profile.

12. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said program code for performing the step of providing a plurality of accessibility profiles comprises program code for providing groups of accessibility profiles wherein each group of accessibility profiles inherits the system accessibility performance characteristics definitions of its constituent accessibility profiles.

13. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 further comprising program code for transferring or copying one or more accessibility profiles from one system to another system.

14. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said program code for providing accessibility profiles comprises program code to associate accessibility profiles to user names or identifiers.

15. A system for managing user accessibility characteristics comprising:

a plurality of accessibility profiles, each accessibility profile defining a

set of user-preferences for system accessibility characteristics for an assigned

system function or application program; and

an accessibility profile manager for setting system accessibility

5   characteristics according to one or more accessibility profiles.

16.   The system as set forth in Claim 15 wherein at least one accessibility profile

contains an assignment to a system function or application program, and

wherein said accessibility profile manager is adapted to set system

accessibility characteristics according to an assigned accessibility profile

10   responsive to operation of a system function or execution of an application

program.

17.   The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a companion operator

for automatically operating a companion system function according to

definitions in an accessibility profile.

15   18.   The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a companion executor

for automatically executing a companion application program according to

definitions in an accessibility profile.

19.   The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a group accessibility

profile, said group accessibility profile defining a set of user-preferences for

20   system accessibility characteristics for an assigned system function or

application program according to inherited system accessibility characteristics

definitions from a plurality of accessibility profiles.

20.   The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a profile transferor for

transferring and copying accessibility profiles between systems.

21.   The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a profile namer for

assigning user-defined names to accessibility profiles.

5   22.   The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a user ID associator

which automatically selects an accessibility profile based upon a user-supplied

identifier.